

**REMARKS:**

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-14. Claims 1-8, 13 and 14 are amended herein, and new claim 15 is added. No new matter is presented. Thus, claims 1-15 are pending and under consideration. The rejections are traversed below.

**REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112¶2:**

Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112¶2.

Claims 1-8, 13 and 14 are amended to recite, "previously used" ingredients to clarify the present invention.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

**REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102:**

Claims 1-4 and 9-13 were rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2002/0165803 (lwase) and claims 5-8 were rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,370,513 (Kolawa).

lwase detects a name of a deficient ingredient necessary for making a particular dish based on ingredient information when necessary ingredients for that particular dish are purchased in a shop. In lwase, an inventory table (34a) manages inventory of commodities treated in a shop including information with respect to each of the commodities, and an ingredient table (35b) stores individual information of ingredients used in particular dishes (see, paragraph 105 and 107). That is, lwase is limited to separately storing information of each commodity and dish and does not interrelate identical or similar commodities used in multiple dishes (see, "recipe-specific deficient ingredient" in FIG. 30).

Kolawa simply compares vector positions of a selected item's product vector against vector positions of a user preference vector to determine an item to be recommended to a user (see, col. 9, lines 64 - col. 10, line 7).

In contrast, the present invention interrelates similarly usable ingredients of one menu with other ingredients belonging to other menus. The present invention thus allows remaining portions of previously used ingredients in a previous menu to be used with a current menu.

Independent claim 1, by way of example, recites that the present invention stores a sale unit for every ingredient where the sale unit of each ingredient is "stored in association with the

stored menu information including previously used ingredients of other menus” and compares “the amount of said ingredient searched out with amounts of the previously used ingredients corresponding to the sale unit searched”. Independent claims 2-4 also recite similar features.

Independent claims 5-8 as amended recite, “storing a first successful sale coefficient... of a first menu” and “a second successful sale coefficient of a second menu... in relation to the first menu”, where the ingredients of the first menu are “linked with previously used ingredients of the second menu”.

Independent claim 13 as amended recites, “the amount of the ingredient indicated as a result of the menu search is compared with amounts of ingredients corresponding to the indicated sale unit and an indication is provided when the ingredient indicated is less than the sale unit” and “the sale unit of each ingredient is associated with the menu information including previously used ingredients of other menus”.

Independent claim 14 as amended recites, “associating an ingredient constituting a first menu item among the menu items with a previously used menu ingredient constituting a second menu item” and “indicating when the ingredient in the first menu item is less than an amount of the previously used item of the second menu item”.

Iwase and Kolawa, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest usability of a remaining “previously used” ingredient of one menu as an ingredient of another menu, as recited in each of the independent claims 1-8, 13 and 14.

It is submitted that the independent claims are patentable over Iwase and Kolawa.

For at least the above-mentioned reasons, claims depending from independent claims are patentably distinguishable over Iwase and Kolawa. The dependent claims are also independently patentable. For example, as recited in claims 9-12, the present invention includes, “transmitting ingredients of a first menu and a number of distributions of the first menu to a user terminal” and “transmitting ingredients of a second menu inquired in relation to the first menu and a number of the inquiries of the second menu to the user terminal”. Iwase and Kolawa, alone or in combination do not teach or suggest these features of claims 9-12.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

**NEW CLAIM:**

New claim 15 is added to emphasize that the present invention includes “determining

whether a remaining ingredient of a previously used menu is usable as a new ingredient of a currently selected menu". The present invention indicates when "the remaining ingredient of the previously used menu is less than an amount of the new ingredient of the currently selected menu" upon determining that the remaining ingredient is usable (see, new claim 15).

lwase separately storing information of each commodity and dish and Kolawa comparing an item's product vector against vector positions of a user preference, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the above-mentioned features of new claim 15.

Therefore, it is submitted that new claim 15 is patentably distinguishable over lwase and Kolawa.

**CONCLUSION:**

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

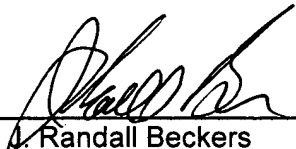
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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